

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) voted Thursday for the Solar Technology Roadmap Act to strengthen the American solar technology industry by investing in more robust development and boosting job creation.

“By creating a roadmap for the development of solar technology, we will curb our reliance on foreign oil and create energy using our own natural resources, like the sun,” Congressman Rodriguez said. “And as the economy begins to improve and show real signs of rebounding, it makes sense to capitalize on clean energy to create jobs and stimulate our economy.”

Congressman Rodriguez represents the 23rd Congressional District, which stretches from San Antonio to El Paso and down to the border and has some of the richest solar production potential in the country. He has been a supporter of increased funding for solar technology projects. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, he voted to fund a new \$1 million photovoltaic solar panel project at the Bexar County Courthouse. He also secured \$500,000 for a solar installation at the Presidio Independent School District.

The Solar Technology Roadmap Act, which passed Thursday 310-106, builds on the investments in the Recovery Act and the American Clean Energy Security Act to move our country toward energy independence and economic recovery. It establishes a process for the research and development of solar technology in partnership with the private sector. It also requires the Secretary of Energy to appoint an 11-member Solar Technology Roadmap Committee to write, review and update a Solar Technology Roadmap.

The act lays out short-term and long-term objectives for solar technology research and development while mitigating any negative environmental impacts. The Department of Energy will have the authority to award grants to entrepreneurs, research agencies and academic laboratories that are leading the field in solar tech development and solar manufacturing.

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